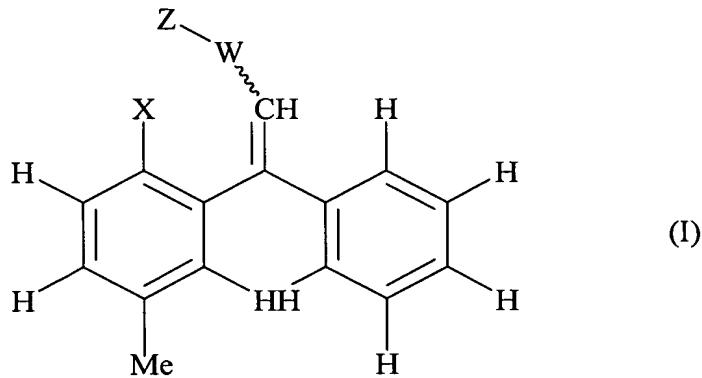


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of preparing an enantiomerically enriched compound of formula (II), ~~characterized in that it comprises the enantioselective hydrogenation of comprising enantioselectively hydrogenating~~ a compound of general formula (I):



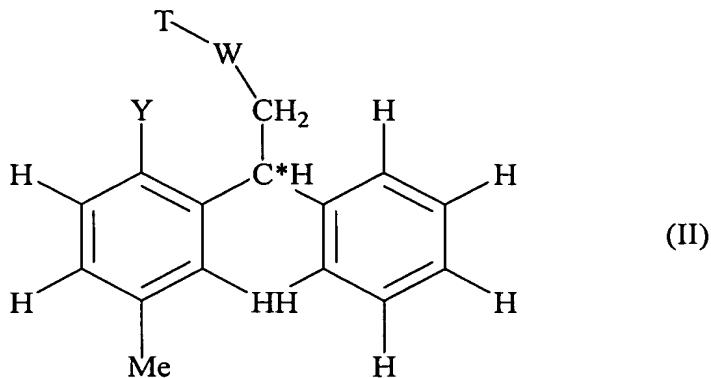
where

W is a CH_2 group or a $\text{C}=\text{O}$ group;

X is a hydroxy, $\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_6$ alkoxy, benzyloxy, $\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_6$ acyloxy, O-tetrahydropyranyl, O-tetrahydrofuryl group, a group O^-M^+ in which M^+ is a cation of an alkali metal or a cation $\text{N}^+\text{R}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3$ where R_1 , R_2 and R_3 , which may be identical or different, are a $\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_8$ alkyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-}\text{C}_8$ cycloalkyl or benzyl group;

Z, when W is CH_2 , is a hydroxy group whereas, when W is $\text{C}=\text{O}$, it is a hydroxy, $\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_6$ alkoxy, benzyloxy or $\text{N}(\text{iC}_3\text{H}_7)_2$ group, a group O^-M^+ in which M^+ is a cation of an alkali metal or a cation $\text{N}^+\text{R}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3$ where R_1 , R_2 and R_3 , which may be identical or different, are a $\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_8$ alkyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-}\text{C}_8$ cycloalkyl or benzyl group;

to give a compound of general formula (II):



where

W has the meanings indicated above;

Y has the same meanings indicated above for X;

T has the same meanings indicated above for Z; or

when W is C=O

Y and T, together, are an oxygen atom; and

C* indicates the enantiomerically enriched chiral carbon atom;

in the presence of a catalyst or its suitable precursor based on Rh, Ru or Ir, having an oxidation state of 0, +1 or +2, and containing at least one enantiomerically enriched chiral ligand.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein the compound of formula (II) in which Y, W and T are not OH, CH₂ and N(iC₃H₇)₂, respectively, is converted to tolterodine enantiomerically enriched in the desired enantiomer.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to claim 1, wherein the method or 2, characterized in that it is carried out in homogeneous phase or in multiphase conditions.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims from 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the catalyst and its precursor are used as they are or immobilized on a suitable inorganic or organic support.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the support is at least one selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of silica, heteropolyacids/silica, heteropolyacids/alumina, zeolites, and resins containing sulphonic and phosphonic groups.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims from 1 to 5, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the molar ratio between the catalyst, or its precursor, and the compound of formula (I) is between 1/10 and 1/30000.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the said molar ratio is between 1/10 and 1/10 000.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the said molar ratio is between 1/100 and 1/5000.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims from 1 to 8, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the enantiomerically enriched chiral ligand is selected from ~~the group comprising~~ mono- and diphosphinic, mono- and diphosphitic, mono- and diaminophosphinic ligands, ~~such as the~~ ligands containing a monophosphinic group and a C₁-C₆ alkoxy, benzyloxy, oxazoline, pyrrolidine or piperidine

group, a group NR_1R_2 , where R_1 and R_2 , which may be identical or different, are a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$ alkyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_8$ cycloalkyl or benzyl group, a group NHCOR_3 or NHSO_2R_3 where R_3 is a $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$ alkyl, phenyl or tolyl group.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to any one of the preceding claims from 1 to 9, characterized in that, if necessary, claim 9, wherein optionally the valence state of the metal of the catalyst is supplemented with at least one ancillary co-ligand.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to any one of the preceding claims from 1 to 10, characterized in that claim 10, wherein the catalyst is at least one selected from the group comprising consisting of $\text{Ru}(\text{TMBTP})(\text{OCOCF}_3)_2$; $\text{Ru}(\text{TMBTP})(\text{p.cymene})\text{I}_2$; $\text{Ru}(\text{TMBTP})(\text{p.cymene})\text{Cl}_2$; $\text{Ru}(\text{BINAP})(\text{OCOCF}_3)_2$; $\text{Rh}(\text{COD})(\text{Chiraphos})\text{ClO}_4$; and $\text{Rh}(\text{NBD})(\text{Chiraphos})\text{ClO}_4$; where TMBTP denotes 2,2',5,5'tetramethyl,3,3'bis(diphenylphosphine), 4,4'bithiophene, BINAP denotes 2,2'bis(diphenylphosphine)1,1'binaphthyl, Chiraphos denotes 2,3 bis(diphenylphosphine)butane, COD denotes cyclooctadiene, and NBD denotes norbornadiene.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to any one of the preceding claims from 1 to 11, characterized in that claim 1, wherein the enantioselective hydrogenation is carried out at a pressure of 1-100 bar.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to claim 12, characterized in that wherein the said pressure is 1-20 bar.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims from 1 to 13, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the enantioselective hydrogenation is carried out at a temperature of 20-100°C.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the said temperature is 20-60°C.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims from 1 to 15, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein enantioselective hydrogenation is carried out in the presence of a solvent or a solvent mixture.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the solvent is at least one selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of C₁-C₄ alcohols, tetrahydrofuran, methylene chloride, C₁-C₄ alkyl aromatics, C₆-C₁₀ alkanes and their mixtures with water.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims from 1 to 17, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein in the compound of formula (I)

W is a C=O group;

X is OH or O⁻M⁺ in which M⁺ has the meanings already indicated above;

Z is OH, N(*i*C₃H₇)₂ or O⁻M⁺ in which M⁺ has the meanings already indicated above.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims from 1 to 18, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein in the compound of formula (II)

W is a CH₂ or C=O group;

Y is OH or O⁻M⁺ in which M⁺ has the meanings already indicated above;

T is OH, N(iC₃H₇)₂ or O⁻M⁺ in which M⁺ has the meanings already indicated above.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein Y and T, together, represent an oxygen atom of the lactone of formula (IIA)

